

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: 11/1/99

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-25)

TO: Allyn Meuleman - KEWN
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Implement Fisheries Enhancement Opportunities: Coeur d'Alene Reservation

Budget No: f3198

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 2.4 Provide Filter Strips to Catch Sediment and Other Pollutants, 3.1 Plant/Protect Vegetative/Conservation Cover, 3.7 Critical Area Planting, 3.17 Sediment Basins, 3.18 Sediment and Water Control Basins, 6.2 Planned Grazing System, 6.3 Control Grazing Intensity, 6.10 Access: Fencing.

Location: Coeur d'Alene Reservation, Idaho.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Description of the Proposed Action: This project is part of the Coeur d'Alene resident fish program and its primary components consist of implementing habitat restoration projects, monitoring project activities, providing education and outreach to agencies and Reservation residents, and providing compensatory harvest opportunities. The project areas involve small segments of Lake, Benewah, Evans, and Indian Creek drainages.

Lake Creek Area: This project involves the construction of four trout ponds of various size and depth to enhance the wetlands plant community, providing rearing and nesting habitat for waterfowl, and supplementing low flow in the mainstem of Lake Creek. All sites involved are located within cropland and as such have been recontoured and farmed for at least 30 years. This project is coordinated with efforts at erosion control by the National Resource Conservation Service; a series of sediment ponds will be installed.

Benewah Creek: The project involves the construction of side channel rearing habitat. The effects of localized channel degradation have effectively isolated the main channel from its historic floodplain and has resulted in the loss of floodplain functions. The main channel is presently subject to severe substrate scouring and offers very little refuge to fish during high flow events. Side channels will be excavated and linked to the main channel so that fish may readily access the enhanced rearing areas.

Evans Creek: This project also involves the construction of side channel fish rearing habitat. Much of the lower two miles of Evans Creek has been channelized within the last 90 years, with a subsequent reduction in habitat diversity and floodplain function. Excavation of side channels will increase the amount of high quality rearing habitat for adult and juvenile cutthroat trout and promote water retention time.

Indian Creek: In an effort to restore cutthroat and bull trout populations in the Indian Creek/Hangman Creek area, a trout pond is to be constructed on tribal property. This site is approximately 150 yards upstream from the current location of the tribal youth camp, and because of its location, will provide a focal point for traditional outdoor activities.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The only known threatened or endangered species present in the project area are bald eagle and bull trout. A Biological assessment was submitted by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A determination of "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" was made for the bald eagle and bull trout. The USFWS concurs with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's finding on the bald eagle and bull trout. This concludes the requirement for informal consultation on threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.

A cultural resource inventory was conducted by Kathryn Arneson for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The inventory revealed four areas of cultural activity, one of which was recorded as a site. Management recommendations have been made and are listed for each drainage in the attached report. Further archaeological investigation in the form of testing and monitoring have been recommended. Cultural clearance is recommended given these provisions.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 10.1, 10.1A, 10.1B, 10.1C, 10.8A, and 10.8B of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Eric N. Powers
Eric N. Powers
Environmental Project Lead - KECN

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 11/2/99

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

USFWS Concurrence Letter

Heritage Resources Inventory Report

cc: (w/attachments)

Kelly Lillengreen - Coeur d'Alene Tribe

H. Nigam – DOE/EH-42

B. Beraud - KECN-4

N. Weintraub - KECN-4

L. Croff - KECP-4

P. Key - LC-7

Official File - KECN (EQ-14)

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